



Peace Dividend Trust
Building a Better Peace

Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry Signs MOU with Peace Dividend Trust

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peace Dividend Trust Timor-Leste (PDT) today announced the completion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Timor-Leste's Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry. With the joint objectives to promote and develop the Timor-Leste business sector, this agreement establishes an ongoing relationship of information sharing and cooperation between the two entities.

The idea behind Peace Dividend Trust is a good and practical one. Building the private sector, which I believe is going to be the engine of the economy, is an important objective of the government and we hope both the national and international communities will increase their local procurement by using services such as this and by doing so, contributing to the development of Timor-Leste, said His Excellency Gil Alves, Minister for Tourism, Commerce and Industry.

PDT and the Ministry will provide national and international agencies and companies with information regarding potential suppliers based in Timor-Leste in order to increase local purchasing. This information is collected through a nation-wide survey that is currently underway. PDT verification teams are visiting and profiling all businesses that operate in Timor-Leste.

To date, over 700 businesses have been verified and will be available through an online procurement database which is under construction and which will feature detailed profiles of every business Timor-Leste. The procurement database will be available in March.

PDT is pleased to have completed this groundbreaking MOU with the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, and Industry, said Country Director, Edward Rees.

We view this as an important step stone towards greater cooperation and interaction between the local business community, the peacekeeping and humanitarian actors operating in Timor-Leste and international entrepreneurs.

-- About Peace Dividend Trust Timor-Leste

Peace Dividend Trust is an international NGO, headquartered in Ottawa, Canada. The Timor-Leste project is funded by AusAID. PDT is a not-for-profit entity. All of its services are provided to the community free of charge. www.peacedividendtrust.org.

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